

CONFIDENTIAL
UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY
UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01

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COURSE THERE. ORE

BT

04135

ACTION OFFICE PCH-01

INFO ACCO-01 OSO-02 OIS-01 PO-02 NEA-03 PG-01 HA-01 HAST-04

RAS-01 /017 AT 21

R 231107Z FEB 87

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 5972

INFO RUEHRC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3720

RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 7800

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 04135

USIA

FOR P/CH: INFO NEA: P/G

STATE FOR NEA/PAB: NEA - PLEASE PASS TO AMB. DUNBAR

AND AMB. HINTON

E.O. 12356: OADR

SUBJECT: AFGHAN MEDIA PROJECT: BU TUTORIAL COURSE

REF: USIA 8736

1. WE WISH WE COULD BE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROPOSED ONE WEEK INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN INFORMATION COMMITTEE GROUPS AND NEWS SERVICES IN THE U.S. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL BOTH HERE AND WITH COLLEAGUES IN PESHAWAR AND MUST RAISE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. THE PROPOSED COURSE COULD BE SEEN AS A VIOLATION OF THE CONCEPT OF AN ALLIANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL PARTIES TO SPEAK OUT WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR HARMONY. FOR EXAMPLE, M. NABI SALEMI (REFTEL PARA 3) IS KNOWN TO JUMP PARTIES AND RELEASED HIS OWN COUNTER PROPOSAL TO THE HAJIB CEASE FIRE OFFER BEFORE THE PARTIES MET IN PESHAWAR TO DRAFT THE UNIFIED JANUARY 17 RESPONSE.

3. ANOTHER POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IS THAT THE PARTY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE U.S. ARE SEEN HERE AS EXISTING ALMOST ENTIRELY TO LOBBY CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH RATHER THAN TO PROVIDE NEWS AND INFORMATION. THEY HAVE NO IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO RAW FACTS ON WHICH TO BASE MEDIA PRODUCTION. AS INFORMATION SOURCES/LOBBYISTS, THEIR ROLE IS TO INFLUENCE AMERICANS. WOULD THE CHARTER OF USIA (EVEN WITH THE BU CUTOFF) BE VIOLATED BY TRAINING FOREIGNERS IN AMERICA TO INFLUENCE AMERICANS?

ABOVE AND BEYOND THESE POINTS, WE QUESTION THE WISDOM OF FURTHER DISSIPATION OF THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE BU GRANT. WE KNOW THERE ARE PLENTY OF REASONS TO BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SETTING UP THE AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS HOPE OR, PERHAPS MORE REALISTICALLY, PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES HERE ON THE GROUND, THE POOL OF MONEY SHOULD BE KEPT INTACT FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN OTHER WORDS, LET'S HOLD OFF FOR THE TIME BEING. IF THINGS TOTALLY COME APART HERE, THEN POSSIBLY THE TRAINING EXERCISE IN BOSTON WOULD BE MORE ATTRACTIVE, ASSUMING QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARAS 2 AND 3 CAN BE SATISFACTORILY ANSWERED.

5. SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL HAS BEEN PASSED TO MILLS WHO, FOR THE RECORD, WILL PASS ON ANY OTHER NAMES (IF ANY) THAT TURN UP. WE CAN ALSO CONFIRM THAT RIFA'S 1, GRAM 15 IN PESHAWAR AND IS CURRENTLY IN BU'S TRAINING

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